The Fish Quality Index as a Risk Communication Tool

By:

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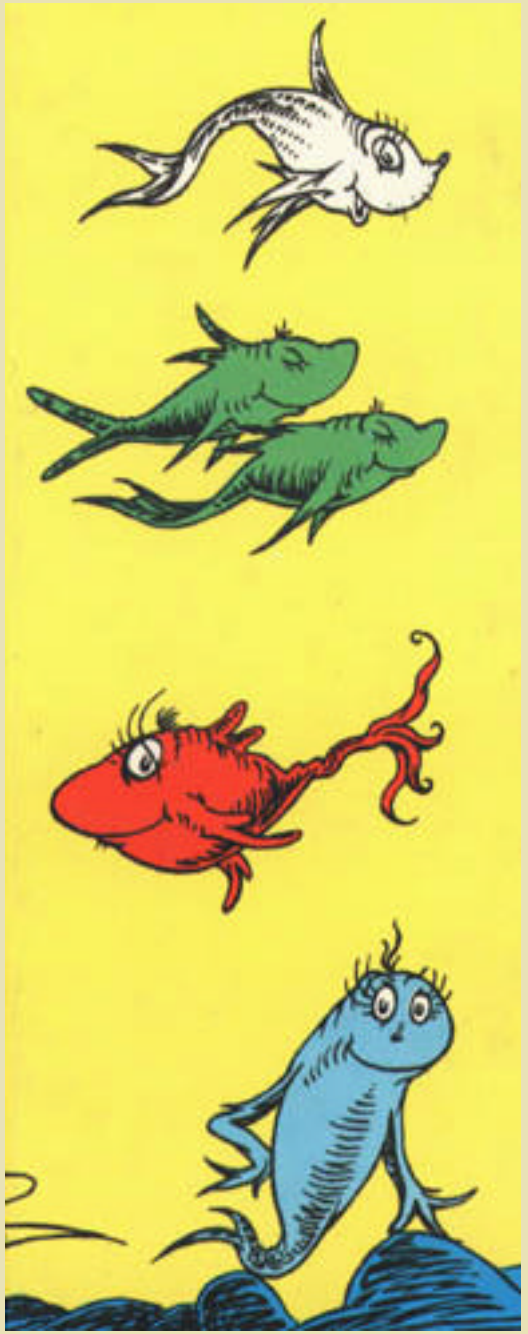
Outline:

- Introduction to Risk Communication in ORD
- Introduction to persistent bioaccumulating toxins (PBT)
- Demonstration of alpha version of the Fish Quality Index



Risk Management

- Reduce Risk By Reducing Emissions of Toxics by “filtering/stabilizing/treating” the waste stream or by reducing the waste stream through P2
- Reduce Risk By Reducing Exposures to Toxics by Behavioral Means

Central Question of Risk Communication

How do you get people to :

Wear a Seatbelt

Wear a Hardhat

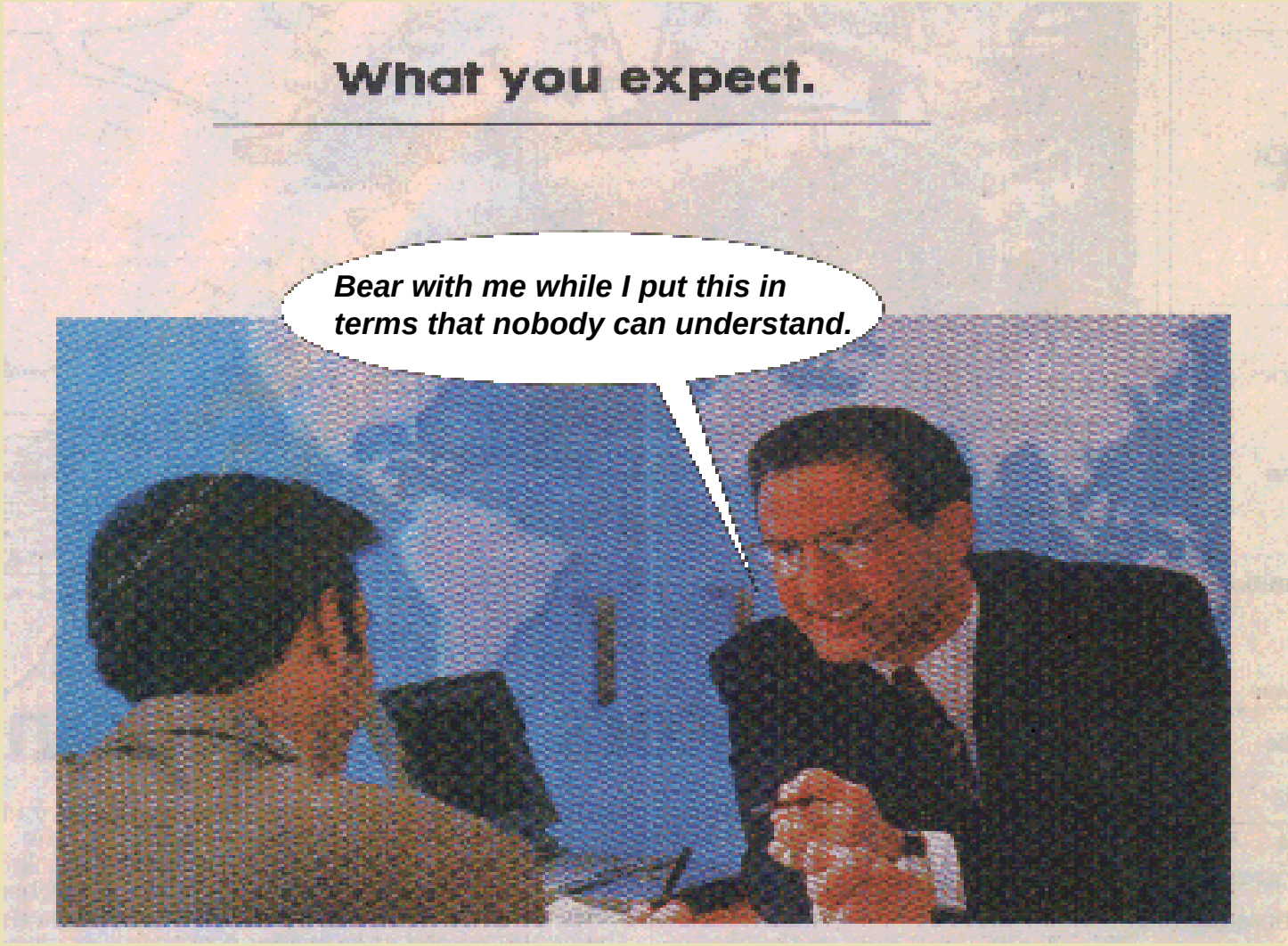
Wear Sunscreen

Wear a Condom

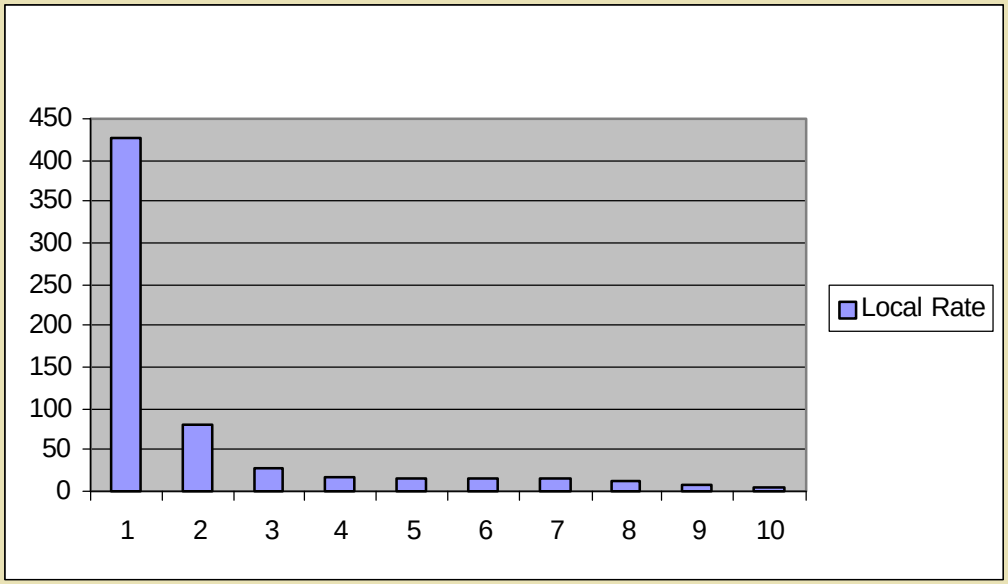
(hopefully not all at the same time)

Or stop smoking, or eat more vegetables…

Standard EPA Approach



Importance of Risk Communication



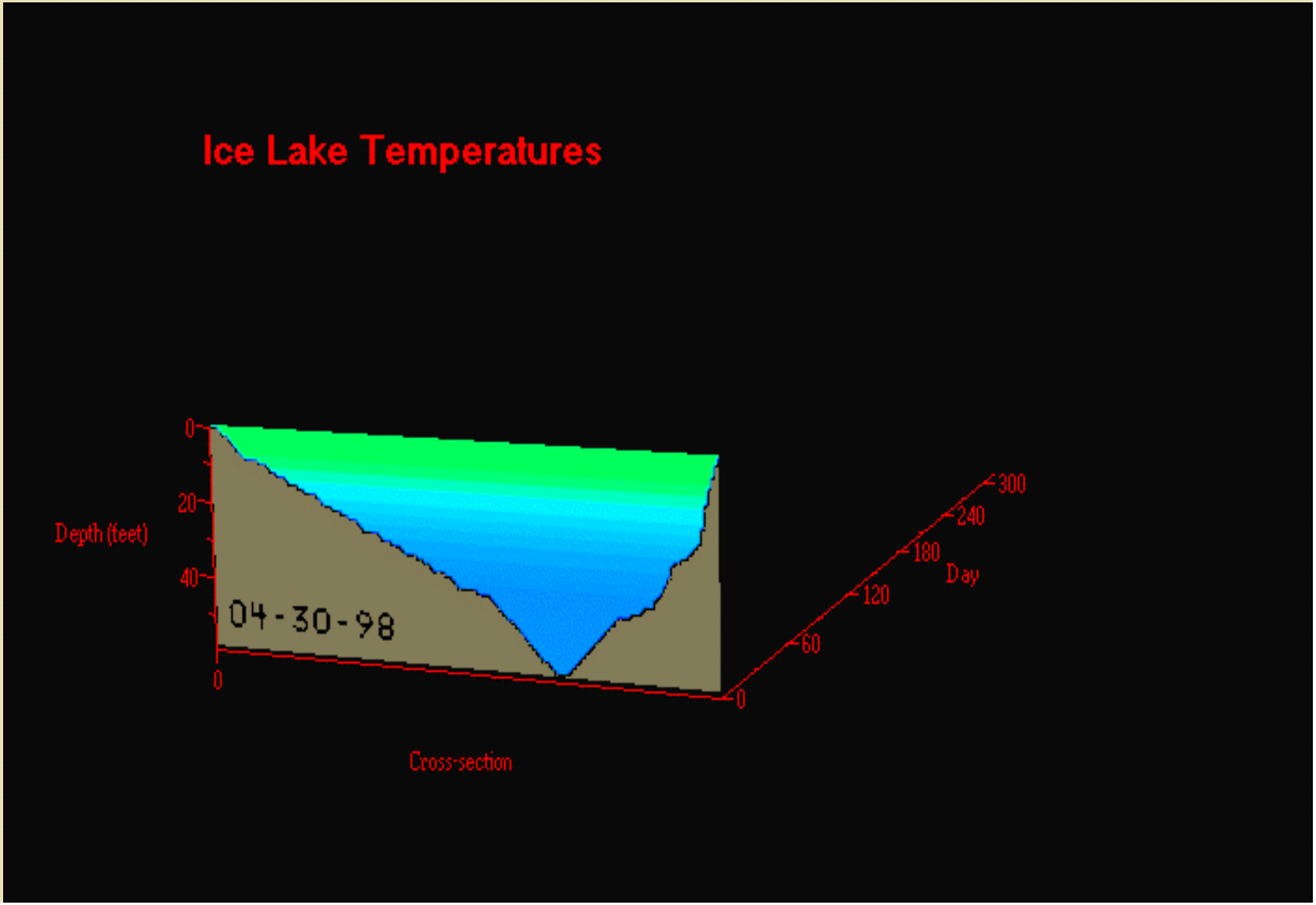
Risk Communication "Laboratories"

- Community Based Environmental Protection Programs
- EMPACT

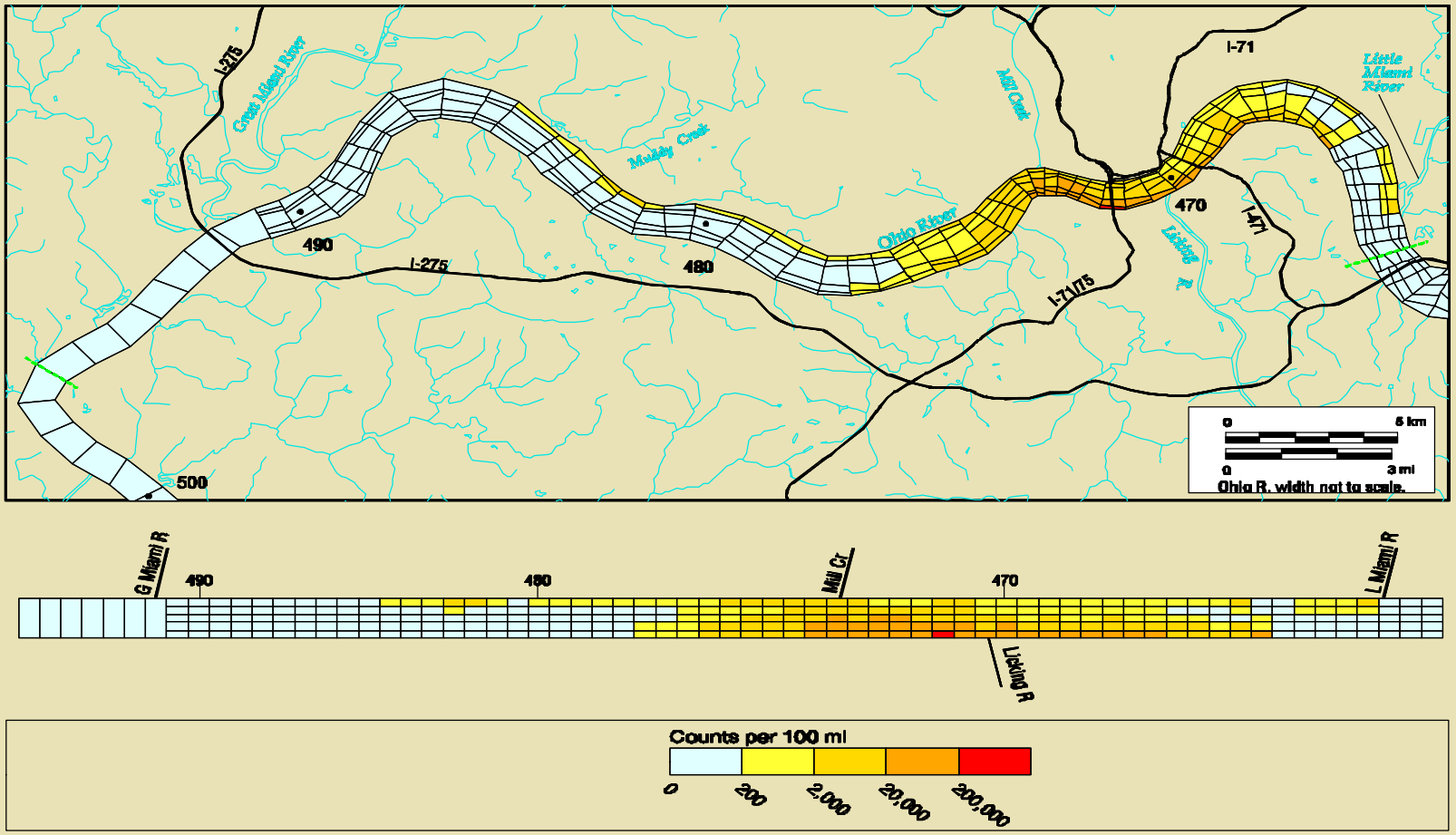
Risk Communication Tools

- Data Visualization Tools-Graphics/GIS
- Data Interpretation Tools- Indices

Lake Access Data Visualization



Data Interpretation-WQI



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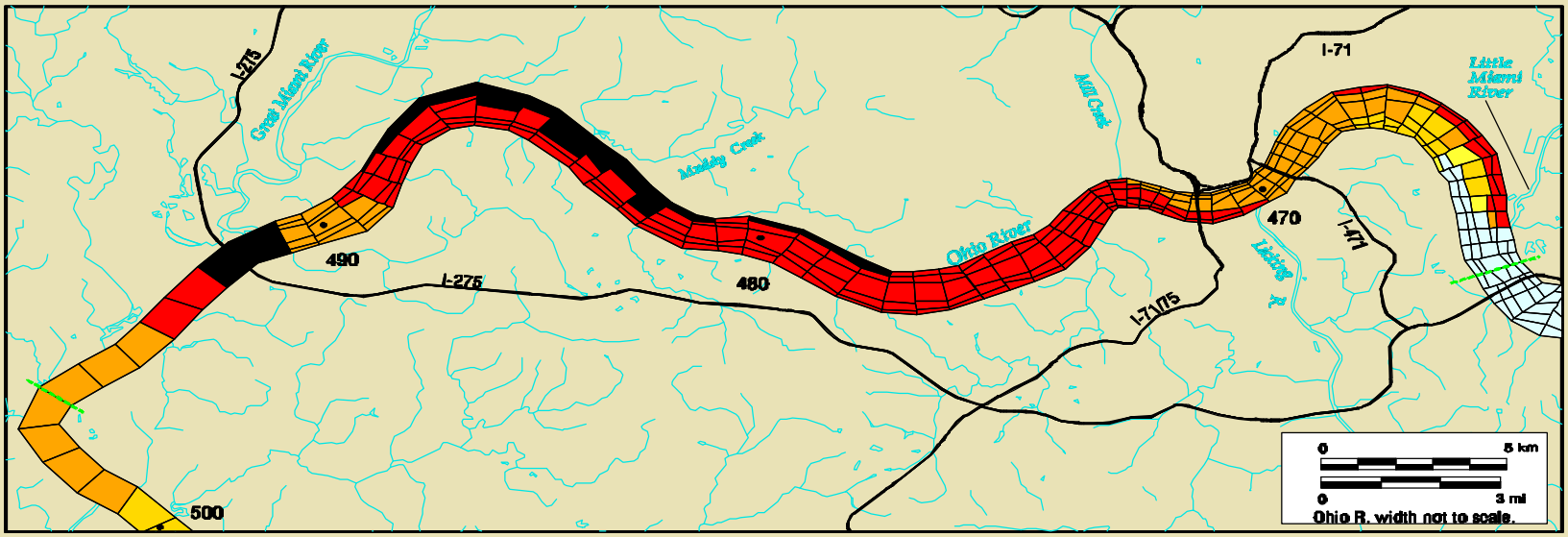

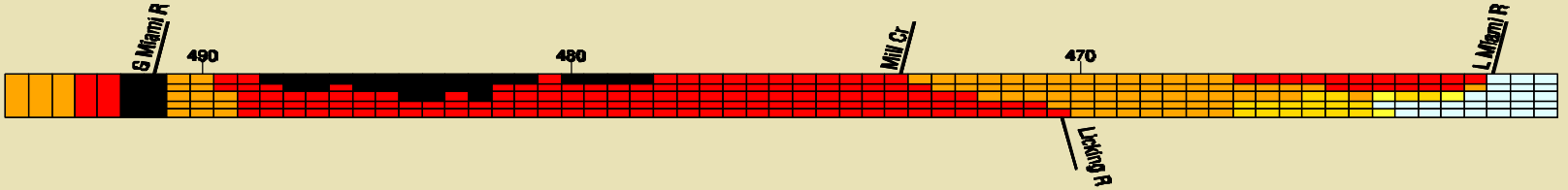

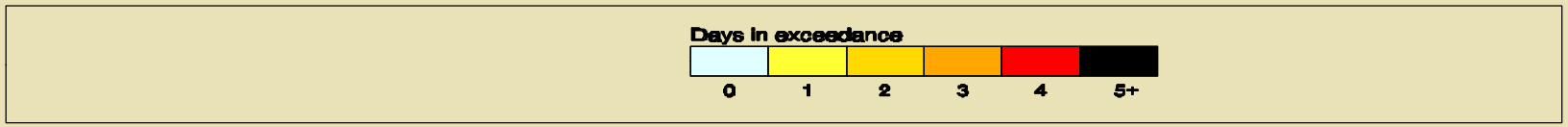

Persistent Bioaccumulating Toxin (PBT)

- Mercury (methylmercury)
- Dioxins
- Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)

PBT Characteristics

- Environmentally Stable (Persistent)
- Amplify up the food chain (bioaccumulation)
- Exposure is often via food sources

Fish Quality Index

Risk Communication Tools:Alpha Version